



Winter 2023

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Roseau County SWCD Newsletter

## 2024 Midwest Soil Health Summit registration opens

\$500 is being offered to Roseau and Lake of the Woods County land producers and operators for the upcoming Soil Health Summit that is put on through the Sustainable Farming Association. Early Bird registration for the next Midwest Soil Health Summit is open until January 15! **Deadline to sign up for the \$500 funding is March 1.**

The soil health event of the year will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Mankato on **March 13 & 14, 2024**. Sessions will center on **"Managing for Profit: Soil Health Principles as a Profit Strategy."** Go to <https://sfa-mn.org/midwest-soil-health-summit/> to learn more.

Headlining the two-day Summit will be farmers and ranchers Mitchell Hora, Dale Strickler, and Burke Teichert. Hailing from different parts of the country, each will bring unique expertise on crop farming, ranching, drought resilience, farm profitability, and much more. Local farmer speakers, to be announced soon, will also offer their expertise in presentations and panel discussions.

Farmers, ag resource professionals, agency staff, hungry learners - all are welcome to attend and learn together.

To sign up for the \$500, please contact your local SWCD office: Roseau office at 218-463-1903 or the Lake of the Woods office at 218-634-1842 ext 4.

March 1 deadline! The funds will be sent after attending.

**To Register**—Go to <https://sfa-mn.org/midwest-soil-health-summit/>

**Early Bird pricing runs until January 15, 2024: \$125 for members, and \$175 for nonmembers.** After January 15 pricing is \$150 for members and \$200 for nonmembers.

**Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) has room blocks at:**

- The Courtyard Marriott Mankato. Mention "Soil Health Summit" when reserving at (507) 388-1234.
- The River Hills Hotel. Mention "Soil Health Summit" when reserving at (507) 388-8688.

**Meals:**

Included with registration are Wednesday evening social with hors d'oeuvre and cash bar, and Wednesday lunch.

### SWCD

#### Supervisors

JOHN GAUKERUD—CHAIR  
JAN MILLER—VICE-CHAIR  
LONDON OLSON—TREASURER  
JADE ESTLING—SECRETARY  
ULRIK AASKOV—PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### District Staff

SCOTT JOHNSON—MANAGER  
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ROSEAUWCD.ORG

## Online Soil Health Web Training

A Free Online Soil Health Training is being offered to Roseau and Lake of the Woods County landowners. **To sign up, please contact either the Roseau office at 218-463-1903 or the Lake of the Woods office at 218-634-1842 ext 4. Deadline is March 1.**

The Regen Ag 101 online course is a self-paced, interactive media experience, chock-full of video lectures, case studies, and supporting research gleaned from the very best of Understanding Ag's expert instructors--all of whom are also experienced regenerative farmers and ranchers.

You will have one year to complete the course at your own pace. **Call now to register!**

Through Regen Ag 101, Understanding Ag's world-renowned teaching team will show you how to increase profitability, build resiliency into your land, decrease input costs, and improve the nutrient density and the marketability of the agricultural products you produce. No matter where you farm or what you grow, Regen Ag 101 will help you improve soil health through practical, regenerative agricultural principles that are the key to your farming and ranching success.

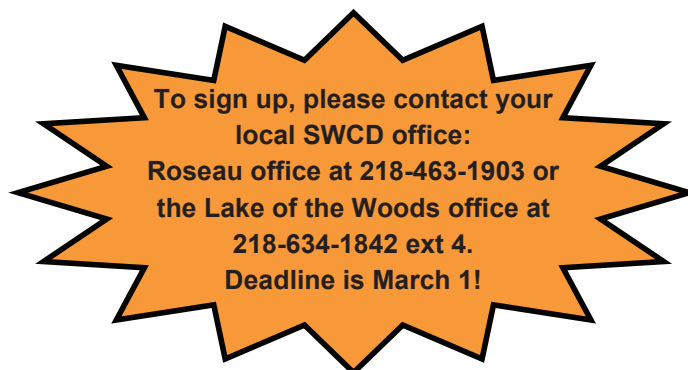
The Regen Ag 101 curriculum covers a range of topics, presented by Understanding Ag's world-renowned farmer/instructors.

### Topics Include:

- Why Regenerative Agriculture
- Soil Health Demonstrations
- The Six Principles of a Healthy Ecosystem
- Four Ecosystem Processes
- Biology and How It Affects Your Farm
- Identifying and Addressing Resource Concerns
- The Three Rules of Adaptive Stewardship
- Adaptive Grazing
- Regen Ag in Action

**For more information, go to:** <https://understandingag.com/regen-ag-online/regen-ag-101/>.

Coaching is available through SFA staff to help farmers implement practices that producers are interested in pursuing.



## Two Rivers Plus CRP Incentives Program

The Two Rivers Plus JPB has set an incentive policy to promote new and re-enrollments into Continuous CRP. A incentive rate for \$10/acre/year with a \$5,000 max has been set for practice types CP23, CP23A, and CP18. With this rate the JPB has also defined priority based on practice type, riparian planning zones, terrestrial habitat zones, eco regions, upstream planning zones, and contract length. These priorities will address goals highlighted in key planning zones within the Two Rivers Plus Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

### CP23—Wetland Restoration on Floodplains

Restoring former wetlands that have been converted for agricultural use, as well as maintaining their associated functions, can yield significant ecological benefits. Wetland restoration on floodplains: Holds runoff to reduce downstream flooding • Improves water quality by intercepting sediment, nutrients, and chemicals • Creates habitat to support hundreds of species of birds, plants, amphibians, and other wildlife

### CP23A—Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

**Eligible Land:** Planted or considered planted at least 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017 • Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity • Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions • Located outside the 100-year floodplain of a

permanent river or stream

**Eligible Land:** Planted or considered planted at least 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017 • Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity • Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions • Located within the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river or stream

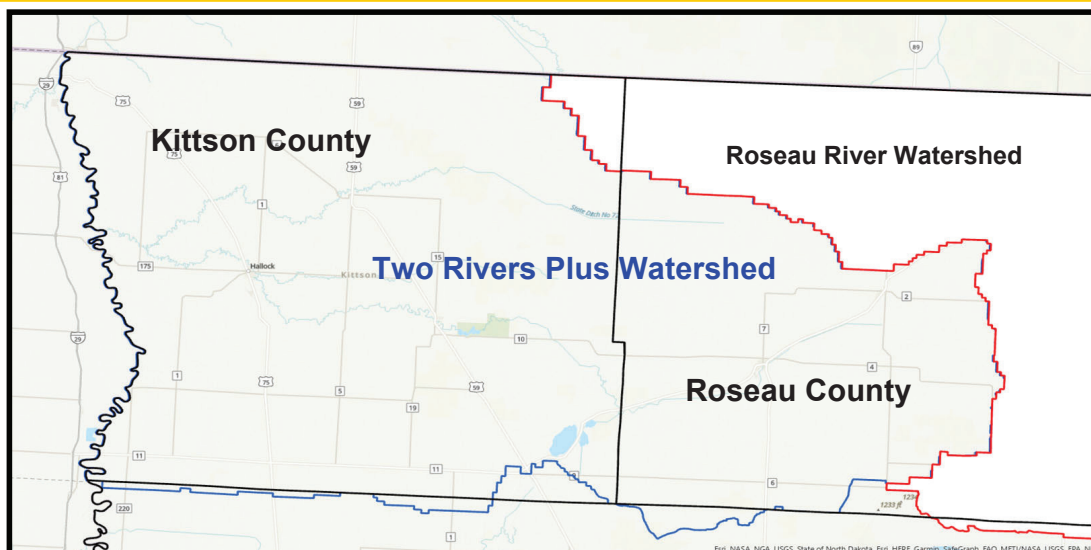
### CP18 Series—Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity:

Vegetative cover made up of salt-tolerant grasses can be established in shallow water tables where salt accumulates in the root zone. This practice contributes to overall soil health in addition to providing a sustainable form of groundcover. Establishing salinity reducing vegetation: • Reduces soil salinity • Mitigates soil erosion • Improves water quality by reducing saline runoff and leaching • Creates wildlife habitat

**Eligible Land:** Planted or considered planted at least 4 out of 6 years between 2012 and 2017 • Capable of being planted to an agricultural commodity • Compliant with USDA's highly erodible land and wetland provisions • Located in a saline seep and recharge area.

Sign up for Continuous CRP at your local Farm Service Agency office and then come and sign up for the incentive rate at the Roseau or Kittson SWCD office. Only approved USDA contracts with the practice lands located within the Two Rivers Plus Watershed will be eligible to receive the incentive rate.

Roseau SWCD office—218-463-1903 • Kittson SWCD office—218-853-2619



## Sign Up for Programs / Practices Across Roseau County

**Farmstead Shelterbelt or Field Windbreak:** We all know that trees add beauty, increase the value of the land, reduce wind erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. Cost-share is available at 75%. Site prep, tree cost, and planting can be cost-shared up to the maximum based on acreage. Contracts are 10-years and the site must be maintained. For more information on tree ordering, various tree type availability, or cost-share opportunities, call the Roseau SWCD office at 218-463-1903 or stop in for a visit.

**Cover Crop Program:** Cover crops benefit by suppressing weeds, improving soil conditions, and protecting your topsoil, especially in those winter months with little to no snow cover. Contracts are for one, two, or three years. The practice may be rotated to different fields every year. Please contact the Roseau SWCD to schedule an appointment.

**Side-Water Inlet:** The side-water inlet (SWI) grade stabilization structure provides field drainage at elevation or lateral channels into deeper open channels. These structures are used to reduce erosion and improve water quality. The 10-year contract provides 75% cost-share assistance and will cover the cost of any engineering or technical design work needed.

**Forest Stewardship/Management Plan Writing Cost-Share:** A Forest Stewardship Plan will help you to understand what is your woods, how to improve them, and when to do the work. Enrollment area must be 20 acres or more with no structures and have more than 50% forested acres. A DNR approved forest management plan writer or DNR Forester must prepare the 10-year plan. Cost-share is available to help with plan writing costs.

**Well Sealing:** Cost-share assistance is available to decommission your unused or abandoned well to prevent groundwater contamination.

**Cost-share for shelterbelt tree planting is now back!**



Photo by Jim Hanson





## 2024 Tree List

A tree order form will be available on our website in January 2024. You may call us or stop in our office to submit an order and to check on availability as tree numbers can change drastically from one day to the next. Orders in 2023 will be invoiced in 2024.

- Orders under \$100 require payment in full.
- Orders over \$100 require a minimum 50% down payment.
- Balance is due at before scheduled pickup day.
- NO CANCELLATIONS after February 1.
- Specially ordered trees CANNOT be cancelled.
- All Federal or State funded program trees require 50% down payment at the time of order or within the first billing cycle.
- All phone orders will need 50% deposit or payment in full before order is accepted.

The Roseau Co SWCD accepts NO responsibility with regards to survival of planting stock or provisions for replacements. We reserve the right to substitute trees/size if the trees/size listed are not available and the right to cancel due to availability. Finance charges will be assessed on a monthly basis for accounts with zero payment activity. Daily storage fees begin after the last scheduled pickup day.

Tree prices are subject to change as the Roseau SWCD will not have price confirmation until early 2024.

**1 bundle = 25 trees**

SHRUBS	Growth Rate	Height	Price per bundle
COTONEASTER	S-M	Up to 10'	\$45
CRANBERRY, Highbush	M	Up to 16'	\$45
DOGWOOD, Redosier	M	Up to 10'	\$45
LILAC, Common	M	8-12'	\$45
LILAC, Villosa	M	6-10'	\$45
MAPLE, Amur (ginnala)	F	15-20'	\$45
WILLOW, Flame	F	Up to 20'	\$45

TREES	Growth Rate	Height	Price per bundle
ASH, Green	M	35-65'	\$45
ASH, Mountain	S	15-25'	\$45
BIRCH, Paper	F	50-70'	\$45
CHERRY, Black	M	50-70'	\$45
CHERRY, Canada Red (Schubert Chokecherry)	M-F	15-20'	\$45
CHERRY, Nanking	F	15'	\$45
CHOKECHERRY, Common	M-F	20-30'	\$45
COTTONWOOD, Male	F	80-100+	\$45
CRAB, Red Splendor	M	15-25'	\$45
JUNEBERRY	M	6-15'	\$45
MAPLE, Red	M-F	50-70'	\$45
MAPLE, Silver	F	75'	\$45
OAK, Bur	S	70-80'+	\$45
OAK, Northern Red	F	60-80'+	\$45
OAK, White	M	60-100'	\$45
PLUM, American	F	8-10'	\$45
POPLAR, Hybrid	F	40-60'	\$45
WILLOW, Laurel Leaf	F	25-40'	\$45

CONIFERS	Growth Rate	Height	Price per bundle
CEDAR, Eastern Red	S-M	30-45'	\$45
CEDAR, Northern White	S-M	40-50'	\$45
JUNIPER, Rocky Mtn	S	10-25'	\$45
PINE, Norway	M-F	50-80'	\$45
PINE, White	F	80-100'	\$45
SPRUCE, Black Hills	F	30-60'	\$45
SPRUCE, Colorado Blue	S	50-100'	\$45
SPRUCE, Norway	F	80-100'+	\$45
SPRUCE, White	F	40-80'	\$45
SPRUCE, Meyer	F	90'+	\$45
TAMARACK	F	50-75'	\$45

POTTED	≈ Size	Height	Price per pot
Black Hills Spruce	18-24"	30-60'	\$17.50
Colorado Blue Spruce	24-30"	50-100'	\$17.50
White Cedar	18-24"	40-50'	\$17.50
White Spruce	18-24"	40-80'	\$17.50

SUPPLIES		# Items
100 flags - 30" pink	bundle	\$15
Terra-Sorb™	1/4 lb. pkg	\$5
Terra-Sorb™	1 lb. pkg	\$15
Premixed Plantskydd®	1 qt	\$23
Plantskydd® deer repellent	1 lb box	\$30
Plantskydd® deer repellent	2.2 lb box	\$50
Granular Plantskydd®	1 lb cylinder	\$12
Granular Plantskydd®	3 lb bag	\$27.50
Tree Tubes	48" Tube	\$4

## Buffer Law

The Buffer Law has not gone away. We have noticed that buffers in certain areas of the county are slowly getting narrower or disappearing altogether. **Minnesota's Buffer Law requires perennial vegetative buffers of up to 50 feet along lakes, rivers, and streams and buffers of 16.5 feet along public ditches.** These buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. Those landowners and operators that are out of compliance will be facing enforcement from Roseau County or relevant Watershed District unless corrected.

A buffer, also known as a riparian filter strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment, and are an important conservation practice for helping keep water clean. Buffers are critical to protecting and restoring water quality and healthy aquatic life, natural stream functions and aquatic habitat due to their immediate proximity to the water.

**Expired / Expiring CRP**—Landowners with CRP acres that have expired or will be expiring soon should contact the Roseau SWCD to find out if your fields are affected by the Buffer Law. If you are planning on breaking sod. Needing to reseed an area where a strip could have been left is a waste of your time and money.

**Alternative Practices**—Alternative practices are another way to satisfy the Buffer Law requirements. For fields bordering public ditch systems, a side-water inlet or grassed swale outlet installation for field drainage and a minimum 5 ft buffer along the field edge is needed satisfy requirements.

**What to Plant**—A wide range of vegetation can make a suitable buffer; to meet requirements the plants must be perennials. This includes hay and forage crops such as alfalfa and clover, woody vegetation, perennial grains that can be harvested later and prairie vegetation. Farmers should purchase seed from a reputable company that holds a seed permit from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to be sure that testing for invasive and noxious weed species has taken place.

### Buffer Plantings Funded by Conservation Programs

Federal, state and local conservation programs can be used for planting buffers. Each program has guidance for the types of vegetation to be used and for seed sources. Buffers funded under Conservation Programs cannot be harvested.



Side Water Inlet with 5 ft Buffer

## 2023 Rainfall

Township	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	May—Sep	Apr—Oct
America—K. Cole	1.50	1.22	3.94	2.42	2.05	2.55	2.52	12.18	16.20
Barnett—O. Vacura	1.52	1.06	1.77	2.05	2.08	2.22	2.85	9.18	13.55
Beaver—D. Grugal	0.79	0.67	3.21	1.79	1.87	2.49	1.56	10.03	12.38
Cedarbend—D. Olson	0.43	2.50	4.39	2.30	2.66	2.32	2.52	14.17	17.12
Clear River—M. Brandli	1.02	1.34	2.78	2.48	2.55	2.61	3.01	11.76	15.79
Dewey—D. Gustafson	2.31	1.55	2.51	0.82	0.82	1.77	1.34	7.47	11.12
Dieter—R. Braaten		1.87	2.10	1.80	1.84	2.15	0.92	9.76	10.68
Enstrom—Santl Farms	0.82	1.25	3.43	2.41	1.96	2.94	2.46	11.99	15.27
Falun—E. Johnson	0.45	1.26	3.24	3.04	2.49	2.72	2.39	12.75	15.59
Golden Valley—K. Zimdars	0.88	1.59	0.96	2.88	1.20	2.15	1.76	8.78	11.42
Grimstad—M. Whitt	0.79	1.15	2.53	1.42	1.80	3.52	2.59	10.42	13.80
Hereim—B. Evans		1.05	8.70	0.81	1.51	1.52	3.20	13.59	16.79
Huss—L. Wiskow	0.79	1.49	1.56	0.93	1.63	3.20	2.39	8.81	11.99
Jadis—D. Grafstrom	0.62	1.82	1.36	2.62	1.48	1.82	1.81	9.10	11.53
N. Jadis Addn—Customs	1.39	1.51	2.00	3.18	1.27	1.88	2.18	9.84	13.41
Juneberry—C. Sikorski	1.53	0.83	3.04	1.80	0.78	3.12	1.99	9.57	13.09
Lake—B. Wennerstrand*	2.03	2.56	7.09	2.41	2.15	1.77	3.50	15.98	21.51
Laona—Estling Farms		2.19	5.53	2.41	2.52	2.16	2.73	14.81	17.54
Malung—R. Sandstrom	0.44	1.34	2.54	2.18	1.59	2.40	1.70	10.05	12.19
Mickinock—D. Carlson	0.51	1.01	3.37	0.96	1.06	2.31	2.56	8.71	11.78
Moranville—J. Knudson	2.00	1.48	4.68	1.87	2.22	2.81	2.33	13.06	17.39
Nereson—A. Heggedal		2.62	1.81	1.47	1.92	2.43		10.25	10.25
Palmville—S. Reynolds		0.85	2.53	1.64	1.35	3.17	2.25	9.54	11.79
Pohlitz—Roseau WMA	1.50	1.21	1.73	3.34	0.97	1.71	2.92	8.96	13.38
Polonia—V. Gryskiewicz	0.58	0.73	5.30	2.07	0.75	1.56	1.72	10.41	12.71
Poplar Grove—E. Gust		1.00	1.86	1.16	0.72	2.81		7.55	7.55
Ross—M. Magnusson	1.84		2.98	2.12	1.70	1.92	2.46	8.72	13.02
Spruce—C. Johnson	0.24	1.39	3.60	2.44	1.97	2.86	1.37	12.26	13.87
Stafford—T. Dahlgren	1.79	1.37	2.13	2.35	2.32	2.41	1.66	10.58	14.03
Stokes—J. Gaukerud	0.79	1.45	1.15	1.79	1.87	2.31	2.21	8.57	11.57
Stokes—P. Monsrud		1.77	1.83	1.92	2.06	2.17	1.37	9.75	11.12
Warroad (E. Lake)—G. Bitzer	0.52	2.62	3.78	2.53	2.35	2.27	3.08	13.55	17.15
<b>Average</b>									

\* measures precipitation the whole year

**Interested in measuring rainfall? Rainfall Monitors are needed for Clear River, Deer, Lind, Moose, Reine, and Skagen Townships.** Rainfall monitoring participants get a free rain gauge and parts.

